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ED. D. PRENTICE, *[Editor]*
A. R. SHIFFMAN, *[Editor]*

UNION STATE CONVENTION.

The majority of the Central Committee pointed by the Union Convention of the State of Kentucky, that assembled at Louisville on the 18th March, 1863, consider it their duty to call a State Convention. It is resolved that the voters of our State who stand upon and endorse the actions adopted by the Union Democratic Convention of the 18th March, 1863, and who desire to try it out, be requested to select delegates to the Convention, to be held in the said city on the 2d day of April, 1863, for the purpose of forming a State electoral-ticket, and selecting delegates to the Union Conservative National Convention which meets in the city of Louisville on the 18th March, 1863.

JAMES GUTHIER, Chairman,
GEORGE D. PRENTICE,
R. KNOTT,
GEORGE P. DOERN,
HAMILTON POPE.

SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 1864.

We invite attention to the Chase manifesto against Mr. Lincoln which we publish on our first page. We do not know that at present we have anything to add to this argument.

Of course the letter of Mr. Chase's that appeared in our telegraphic columns yesterday is a mere piece of political strategy, designed as it certainly is adapted to increase the ardor of Mr. Chase's partisans, on the principle, as applicable in the moral as in the physical world, that a little cold-water thrown upon a big fire serves to augment and intensify the flame. The letter signifies nothing that the prospects of Mr. Chase are in his own estimation getting somewhat desperate, and friends. This letter will effect, besides preparing a soft place where to fall in the end, if he must. We look upon the letter as quite a masterpiece in its way.

The rebellion is certainly in a bad way, but let none of our people give themselves up to the delusion that it is conquered, or that it has ceased to be formidable. Let it not be thought for a moment that the rebels are so crippled, broken-down, or paralyzed, that they can no longer offer anything more than a feeble resistance to the Union armies. They may be upon short and coarse rations, they may be half-naked, they may lack all the luxuries and much of what we usually mean the necessities of life, but they fight. A good many of them desert, but the deserts are more than compensated by the all-sweeping conscription. A good many of them, we say, desert, but those who remain fight in undiminished numbers and with the most desperate determination, stimulated, incited, and stung by the consciousness that the cause of the country would be abandoned, themselves, their families to hopeless and dire straits.

We do not think we are mistaken when we express our belief, that if a wise, just, and conciliatory policy had been adopted and strictly adhered to by the Federal Administration, there would not now be a sign of rebellion in the whole country.

The rebels never did more desperate fighting or more rapid marching than they have recently done against Gen. Seymour in Florida, and against Gen. Smith and Gen. Grierson in Mississippi. Notwithstanding the very great injuries inflicted upon them by Smith and Grierson, and the immense damage done them by Sherman, it must be confessed that the spring campaign does not thus far appear to be opening altogether inauspiciously for them. They are already in the field with a large portion of the men raised by their all-embracing conscription, and they will be in the field with all the rest before we shall be able to use the reinforcements furnished by their draft. No doubt the backbone of the rebellion is a whiny bruiser, but it isn't broken. It won't be broken till one of the great armies of the rebellion shall have been destroyed. We have yet a mighty work before us, and our only salvation is in giving our whole might to the accomplishment of it.

The Mount Vernon estate has not been occupied, either by loyal or rebel troops, during the rebellion. This shows that theirs is still at the core of the American heart an innate recognition of the eminent services of the illustrious man who founded it last there, and who, in the name of the Constitution, led the colonies to victory in the cause of independence, and filled for two terms the Executive chair of the Union. While this sentiment finds a response in the better impulses of the people who have lived and prospered under the Union to whom the service of the country was a source of pride, and their families were a source of honor, the editor of the Commonwealth, in his judgment, has the confidence that "the irretrievable remembrance of the past" will again bring Massachusetts and South Carolina back to the "cherished harmony both of principle and feeling" which once distinguished them. "Shoulder to shoulder, they went through the war of the Revolution, and hand to hand they stood around the administration of Washington and felt his own great arm lean upon them for support!"

HORRIBLE.—It appears from the despatches, that, according to the testimony of Federal prisoners from Richmond, the rebel authorities there, when they found that Kilpatrick was rapidly approaching the city, planned 2000000 powder to blow up the prison, and made arrangements for blowing the thousands of inmates into eternity. The widows are competent to testify, and we presume that they testify to the truth. And what a horrid truth it is! The dead contemplated was worthy only of Hell's worst dervish. If the Federal cavalry had entered Richmond and the gunpowder project had been executed, blowing thousands of unarmed and helpless prisoners to the clouds, the dead could not but shock and horrify the whole world of mankind throughout all the centuries.

On the part of the rebels this war is a civilization war. It is in many things worse than is usually known as barbarian warfare. We can only extort our brave officers and soldiers never to make themselves prisoners to the rebels while they have the power to stand. They had better a thousand times better, die upon the battle-field than give themselves up to the rebels, "whose tender mercies are cruel."

"You had better contribute freely your provisions to the support of the Confederate armies," said Howell Cobb to the Southern farmers in a speech at Atlanta on the 28th ult., "for, if you don't, we will take you to task." The only choice, it seems, is between giving and being robbed.

Our President ought to know, that to make a slave State a free State, something more is necessary than the words "protection."

Jeff Davis hasn't much reason to regret the running away of his coachman. His coach left him before the coachman did.

From the New York Journal of Commerce, I War Then?—Men shrink from looking into the future. They find fault with those who insist upon the right of self-government, and complain that it is not supported by the administration that the delay in making public the finding of the Commission to investigate the conduct of Gen. Buell was accidental. We presume the correspondent alludes to speaks by authority, and this presumption is strengthened by the palpable want of any other reason to be assigned by the War Department for its "unintended injustice." How the delay was accidental has not been explained, but to the experience of those who are accustomed to handle and dispose of documents, only two ways of accidentality present themselves: either a rush of business to pass by a case supposing it to have been already published, or to mislay the record. The first of these two possible causes seems pretty probable, as the press of the entire country has been asking, and the friends of Gen. Buell demanding, for the decision of the Commission ever since the record in his case was forwarded. It is reasonable to presume that the General-in-Chief of the Secretary of War, and the officers of the War Department, read the newspapers, and it may be accepted as a fact that if they do not, a good many are aware that the decision had not been published. The "surprise in military circles" in regard to the delay has been particularly intense in Washington, and the first reason suggested must therefore be rejected as impossible. The second reason which we have indicated is one of frequent occurrence in an Adjutant-General's office, particularly where the paper is passed from hand to hand. The War Department, then, in its semi-official capacity, of the nation which is necessary to enable us to recover even ordinary strength? The life-blood of our country is the affection of the people for the Union; and if this affection fails, blood fails, and the body dies. Temporary alienation may be cured, but if we seek to cure it by means calculated to make the alienation permanent, we are likely to benefit the system by our experiment. Shall we crush a rebellion in such way as to destroy the vital system when it can be done otherwise? Shall we carry on this war so as to come out of it weakened, impeded, and without that compact, hearty, healthy condition of the nation which is necessary to enable us to recover even ordinary strength? The life-blood of our country is the affection of the people for the Union; and if this affection fails, blood fails, and the body dies. Temporary alienation may be cured, but if we seek to cure it by means calculated to make the alienation permanent, we are likely to benefit the system by our experiment. The work of our enemies is to be done with this result. Why not be wise in time?

Men seek to stifle these questions, but they are seeking full hold on the minds of the people. It is plain as the noonday sun that if the policy of the present Administration is continued into another four years, we have seen the end of the American Union. Mr. Lincoln and his advisers can never restore that Union to life and health, nor can they build up a new constitution to replace that which they are destroying. They cannot save the life of the nation. If we are to trust to them, it may as well be confessed to day that it will certainly be confessed next year, as it will be to the world that the Union is gone, and forever, and that their new government will be a weak and worthless experiment. Why close our eyes to these solemn truths? The principle of wholesale abolition and confiscation, founded on the idea of conquering and governing a conquered people millions of Americans, is contrary to the spirit of free institutions. It is poison in the blood of the Union. It is death to republican government. The one-ten-thousandth part of Mr. Lincoln's report from the War Department, that record has told us that it contained over five thousand pages of legal case, making twenty-five inches deep of solid paper. If such a document could be paged-welded in the War Department, the compartments in the cases should be called robes, after the gigantic Arabian bird, for our Lilliputian experience by any possibility might be overlooked, forgotten, or misted. The War Department, in its semi-official capacity, of the nation which is necessary to enable us to recover even ordinary strength? The life-blood of our country is the affection of the people for the Union; and if this affection fails, blood fails, and the body dies. Temporary alienation may be cured, but if we seek to cure it by means calculated to make the alienation permanent, we are likely to benefit the system by our experiment. Shall we crush a rebellion in such way as to destroy the vital system when it can be done otherwise? Shall we carry on this war so as to come out of it weakened, impeded, and without that compact, hearty, healthy condition of the nation which is necessary to enable us to recover even ordinary strength? The life-blood of our country is the affection of the people for the Union; and if this affection fails, blood fails, and the body dies. Temporary alienation may be cured, but if we seek to cure it by means calculated to make the alienation permanent, we are likely to benefit the system by our experiment. The work of our enemies is to be done with this result. Why not be wise in time?

It is entirely too late for the administration to attempt to explain away its outrages upon the people, and their families give themselves up to the delusion that it is conquered, or that it has ceased to be formidable. Let it not be thought for a moment that the rebels are so crippled, broken-down, or paralyzed, that they can no longer offer anything more than a feeble resistance to the Union armies. They may be upon short and coarse rations, they may be half-naked, they may lack all the luxuries and much of what we usually mean the necessities of life, but they fight. A good many of them desert, but the deserts are more than compensated by the all-sweeping conscription. A good many of them, we say, desert, but those who remain fight in undiminished numbers and with the most desperate determination, stimulated, incited, and stung by the consciousness that the course of the country would be abandoned, themselves, their families to hopeless and dire straits.

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The new Editor, the abolition Editor, of the Frankfort Commonwealth, (ods!) small horns and big bumble-bees! who can be?) is still assailing us as disloyal. We are pursuing exactly the course that we have pursued from the first, and the Commonwealth, until it was well nigh torn to pieces, was the best friend of the slaves. It is useless to discuss this plan. It is too plain to the eye to be denied. The fundamental principles of our government command the respect even of the most devoted followers of those who invented it.

What sort of a free government will the United States have when reconstructed on this plan? New York, with her millions of freedmen, will find herself out-voted and out-weighted in both houses of Congress by other States with one-tenth of her own numbers; and that tenth will be partly or wholly negro. If the dominant party carry out consistently its present avowed policy! Does any one imagine that will be a Union which Northern men or Southern men will love, never once awaked a spark of generosity, never for one moment broke the silence which alone was calculated to cast suspicion upon Gen. Buell. And even now his vindication is forced and constrained; it does not emanate spontaneously and generously from those who, having done a unfeigned wrong, seek to make all possible reparation. How would such principles survive the shock of holding one-tenth of the population of Virginia balancing, in the House of Representatives, the votes of five Northern States, and ten times their number of Northern votes? The idea is not only absurd, but is a deadly thrust at the whole fabric of our government. But what if he permitted, and the one-tenth do make a new constitution, of which the one-tenth ought not to elect more than one-tenth of the representatives—not ought to be bidding the power of more than one-tenth the population. How would such principles survive the shock of holding one-tenth of the population of Virginia balancing, in the House of Representatives, the votes of five Northern States, and ten times their number of Northern votes? The idea is not only absurd, but is a deadly thrust at the whole fabric of our government. 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